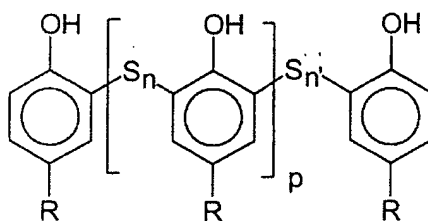


This listing of claims will replace the prior version in the application.

Claims

1. (currently amended) A sulfur-vulcanizable elastomeric composition comprising at least one diene elastomer and at least one reinforcing filler, ~~characterized in that it can be obtained by a process comprising the mixing of said elastomer and said filler with an effective amount of a coupling agent consisting of a combination of:~~

- 10 to 90%, ~~preferably 50 to 70%~~, of a product (I) consisting of a blend of poly(alkylphenol) polysulfides of formula:



in which:

- R is an alkyl radical containing 1 to 20, ~~preferably 4 to 10~~, carbon atoms;
- n and n' are two integers, which may be identical or different, from 1 to 8, ~~preferably from 1 to 4~~;
- p is an integer from 0 to 50, ~~preferably from 0 to 20~~; and
- 10 to 90%, ~~preferably 30 to 50%~~, of a product (II) consisting of bis(triethoxysilylpropyl)tetrasulfide.

2. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one or more diene elastomers chosen from polybutadiene and poly(styrene/butadiene) are used.

3. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that a white reinforcing filler is used.

4. (original) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the white filler is silica, by itself or as a mixture with alumina.

5. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that a mixture of compounds of formula (I) is used in which R is an alkyl radical containing at least one tertiary carbon via which R is linked to the aromatic ring.
6. (original) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that R is a *tert*-butyl or *tert*-pentyl radical.
7. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that, ~~as mixture in said blend~~ of compounds of formula (I), a mixture is used in which the average value of n and of n' is about 2 and the average value of p is about 5.
8. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the (I)/(II) weight ratio is from 1 to 3 ~~and preferably about 2~~.
9. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 3 to 8~~ claim 3, characterized in that it is obtained by mixing, with 100 parts by weight of diene elastomer(s):
- 10 to 200, ~~preferably between 20 and 150~~, parts by weight of white reinforcing filler; and
 - 0.5 to 10, ~~preferably 2 to 8~~, parts by weight of said coupling agent ~~as defined above~~.
10. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that 50 to 100 parts by weight of silica and 5 to 7 parts by weight of the coupling agent are mixed with 100 parts by weight of said at least one diene elastomer(s) elastomer.
11. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that ~~standard~~ non-sulfur-containing additives are ~~also~~ incorporated.
12. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the diene elastomer, the reinforcing filler, the products (I) and (II) and the non-sulfur-containing additives are subjected to mechanical working, including at least

one thermal step at a temperature of between 130°C and 170°C, ~~preferably between 130°C and 150°C.~~

13. (currently amended) The elastomeric composition as claimed in ~~either of claims 11 and 12~~ claim 11, characterized in that a vulcanization system comprising ~~in particular~~ sulfur and vulcanization accelerators[[,]] is ~~also~~ added[[,]] by ~~finish~~ mechanical working.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A molded article ~~that can be~~ obtained by forming the composition as defined in claim 13 followed by heating.

16. (currently amended) The molded article as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is a tire tread.

17. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, comprising 50 to 70% of said product (I).

18. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, characterized in that R contains 4 to 10 carbons atoms.

19 (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, characterized in that n and n' are form 1 to 4

20. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 1, comprising 30 to 50% of said product II.

21. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 8 characterized in that the ratio(I)/(II) is about 2.

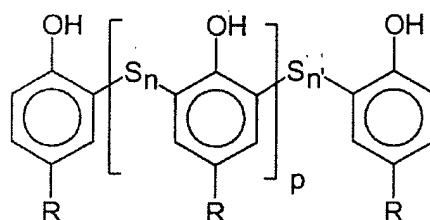
22. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 9 comprising between 20 and 150 parts by weight said white reinforcing filler.

23. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 9 comprising 2 to 8 parts by weight of said coupling agent.

24. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 12 characterized in that said temperature is between 130° and 150°.

25. (new) A coupling agent comprising a combination of:

- 10 to 90%, of a product (I) consisting of a blend of poly(alkylphenol) polysulfides of formula:



in which:

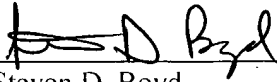
- R is an alkyl radical containing 1 to 20, carbon atoms;
- n and n' are two integers, which may be identical or different, from 1 to 8,;
- p is an integer from 0 to 50,; and
- 10 to 90%, of a product (II) consisting of bis(triethoxysilylpropyl)tetrasulfide.

26. (new) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that a mixture of compounds of formula (I) is used in which R is an alkyl radical containing at least one tertiary carbon via which R is linked to the aromatic ring.

27. (new) The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 25, characterized in that the (I)/(II) weight ratio is from 1 to 3.

28. (new) The elastomeric composition of claim 27 characterized in that the ratio(I)/(II) is about 2.

Respectfully submitted,



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